

In respect of the stocks procured in Andhra Pradesh, entire quantity has been liquidated through normal channel without incurring any additional expenditure as the same were within issuable limits.

A loss of Rs.75.13 lakhs and Rs.37.35 lakhs has been suffered by the FCI due to procurement of sub-standard/BRL stocks in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana respectively.

No loss has been sustained in Punjab.

No loss has been caused to the States in this regard.

(c) to (e) Three Category- I officers were found involved in procurement of BRL stocks in Uttar Pradesh. In one case the penalty of Censure has been imposed. In another case the penalty of Censure and recovery of 15% of the estimated loss has been imposed. The third case is under process.

No senior officer was found involved in such procurement of sub-standard/BRL stocks in other States.

However, some other officers in Punjab who were involved in the procurement of sub-standard stocks have been proceeded against under the relevant rules of the FCI.

Supply of foodgrains to drought affected areas at higher rates

1251.SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are being supplied to the drought affected areas in the country at a higher rate than the rates at which foodgrains are exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for selling the foodgrains in the drought affected areas beyond the purchasing power of the affected people; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Central Government has been allocating foodgrains (rice and wheat) to the drought affected States free of cost for food for work programme. Foodgrains are also being allotted to the States for

calamity relief such as drought, flood, etc. at rates applicable to families below poverty line (BPL) i.e. Rs. 5650 per tonne for rice and Rs. 4150 per tonne for wheat for distribution to the affected families.

As compared to this, the export price of rice fixed by the Government of India is Rs. 5650/-per tonne for raw rice and Rs. 6000/- per tonne for parboiled rice. The current export price of wheat is Rs. 4200 per tonne and that of 'lustre lost' wheat of Punjab and Haryana is Rs. 4150 per tonne.

Rejection of wheat by Indonesia

1252. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts of Government to export wheat to Indonesia received a set back since the Indonesia Government has rejected Indian wheat due to quality reasons;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been exporting poor quality of wheat resulting losses in heavy transit charges etc.; and

(d) if so, the details of such losses suffered during the last few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Discrepancies in prices of PDS items

†1253. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of the items sold through the fair price shops are more than the prices prevailing in the open market;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to reconsider the prices of these items; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.